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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 16 | Humidity 66% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 57,788 | Nifty 17,221 | Gold 48,139 | Silver 60,260 | Dollar 76.41 | Euro 86.04 | GBP 101.07

HIDDEN FIGURES

Contrary to popular belief, demand for engineering courses falls; lowest in 10 years

SMOKE ON THE WATER

Garbage burning next to Sadaramangala lake is leaving the air around riddled with ash

NICE BUT UNSAFE

Death of pedestrian puts traffic cops on their toes

How wards are reining in covid-19 as Omicron fears loom: Bellandur sees about 7 cases daily as Padarayanapura reports zero

WARDPLAY

What's behind contrasting covid numbers?

KAUSHIK JN

A containment zone sealed off in city limits a few weeks ago

| Pragna L Krupa
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TWEETS @Pragna_MIRROR

"Residents of Padarayanapura don't travel much and work mostly in surrounding areas. These factors have been protecting them..." — Dr Balasundar AS, chief health officer, BBMP

Padarayanapura was one of the first wards in the city to report covid-19 cases and set up containment zones. However, now the ward is reporting the least number of cases, and many times zero infections, for the last 18 months.

On the other hand, Bellandur has been reporting the highest number of cases for over a year now.

The worst affected ward once, Padarayanapura, is now the least affected with zero cases reported in the last ten days whereas Bellandur is reporting four to five cases per day.

So, why is Bellandur reporting the highest number of cases?

"Bellandur has the highest number of cases due to the migrant population residing in the area. Majority of the people residing in the ward have been travelling to their hometowns or villages, especially to the neighbouring states where the cases are high. Post the second wave, many citizens did travel elsewhere and tested positive after

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Chennai Express pulls in

Shortest road linking Bengaluru and Chennai traverses three states, reduces distance to 250 km

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Finally, the work on the long delayed Bengaluru-Chennai expressway has begun. This is a key infrastructure project for the city and has been in limbo since its first announcement in the 1990s.

The NHAI is now executing the project under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). The whole road project has been divided into 10 packages. Out of this, the 72-km length of road falls under Karnataka territory and has been divided into three packages. "Out of the three packages, we have begun work in two packages totalling the length of 54 km. We expect the work to be completed in two years. As far as the last package is concerned, the tenders have been awarded, agreement has been signed, the concessionaire is in the process of fulfilling certain conditions and the work may start by next month," said a NHAI official.

However, the work is yet to start in Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu.

This will be the first Greenfield expressway in south India cutting across Hoskote, Malur (Karnataka), V Kota, Palamaner (Andhra Pradesh), Gudiyatam, Arakkonam and Sriperumbudur (Tamil Nadu). Incidentally, this will be the shortest distance between Bengaluru and Chennai with distance reduced to 250 km (Greenfield area) from Hoskote to Sriperumbadur.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 A Christmas wonderland

SteppinOut brings in Christmas in style with their night market, a one-stop destination for Christmas celebrations, shopping and food. Lined with brightly lit stalls the night market will look like a colourful Christmas dream. The Christmas Wonderland will have something for everyone, a celebration of food, music and the holiday spirit, their yuletide offering also include artisanal markets that will offer products ranging from fashion, lifestyle and decor. Shop and experience some of the best artisanal and homegrown brands like 'Over The Lune', Neenu's Natural, RubyWoo and the Huda Bar.
When: December 18
Where: Taj West End
Ticket link: dineout.co.in

02 Taste the festive bling

Joy, love and sharing gifts has become a Christmas tradition that has lasted centuries. Explore the Christmas and New Year-themed jewellery at C Krishniah Chetty Group Of Jeweller Showrooms to gift your loved ones or yourself this year. Explore charms for smart watches and bracelets. Our charm loops can be worn as pendants for chains too. Their designers have also created ear pins, long-shoulder duster earrings, statement cuffs, bracelets and hairpins that are worth exploring. These are available in semi-precious stones like onyx, malachite, turquoise, mother of pearl and pearls. Rose gold and white gold have been used too to bring in the warmth that's so perfect for a wintry Christmas and New Year.

Where: C Krishniah Chetty Group Of Jeweller Showrooms
When: Until December 31
Contact: 9686101869

03 Play it cool

Antaranga, a creative, amateur, theatre group based in Bengaluru, has been staging relevant, contemporary Kannada plays for the past 41 Years. As the group is recovering from the harsh hit its industry took due to the pandemic-induced lockdowns, it is excited to showcase Project Nagna, their latest production. Project Nagna will be a Kannada adaptation of the famous English play, Project STRIP. The play, originally written by Ram Ganesh Kamatam, has been translated to Kannada by B Suresh. The director of Project Nagna, Archana Shyam, has designed and directed the play to retain the suspense, twists and turns and the subtle humour in Kamatam's original work and has received many accolades already.

Where: Seva Sadan, Malleswaram
When: December 17, 7 pm
Register: bookmyshow.com
Ticket: Rs 150

HIDDEN FIGURES

Contrary to popular belief, demand for engineering courses is falling, is lowest in 10 years; more students are preferring other streams

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The demand for engineering colleges in India has dropped. It is the lowest it has been in 10 years, according to the Ministry of Education. The ministry had said so in a response to a question asked in Lok Sabha on Monday.

A committee constituted by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) observed that capacity utilisation during the year 2017 to 2018 at undergraduate and postgraduate levels was 49.8 per cent (intake capacity vs enrollment). This means only one in two engineering seats in the country were filled.

The committee notes that the total approved intake in the AICTE approved engineering institutions in the country has declined from 26,95,333 from 2012 to 13 to 23,66,728 in 2021 to 2022. The total enrollment has declined from 17,51,538 in 2012 to 13 to just 12,75,880 in 2020 to 2021.

The BVR Mohan Reddy Committee recommended that no addition to capacity be approved by AICTE starting from the academic year 2020, and asked for reviews every two years.

According to experts, the decline in demand for engineering seats is due to two primary reasons. Firstly, engineering colleges are out of touch with the current reality of the industry. While engineers being produced by the system are in surplus, the marketability of these graduates is questionable in an industry that is continuously evolving and has no need for those who are out of touch with the needs of the industry.

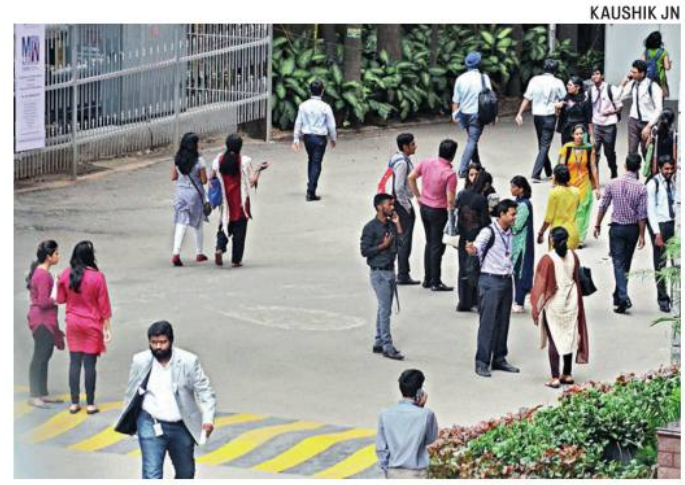
Colleges must upgrade themselves and their curriculums if they want to keep up with the industry. "On one hand, there is a surplus of engineers from colleges. On the other hand, the current system is not able to meet the new challenges of the industry," said MS Shivakumar, former registrar of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).

He added, "Majority colleges don't upgrade themselves, which is essential for the success of the college and placement of the students. They only follow what is instructed to them by the regulatory bodies. They should innovate teaching by themselves, design their own curriculums and try to meet the expectations of the industry."

The second reason for the decline in demand is the increasing gravitation of students towards non-engineering streams such as commerce, law and humanities. "I have observed that a lot of students are preferring branches other than medical or engineering such as law and commerce. There are various opportunities in these other professional fields and so many students are going in that direction," said Dr K Balaveera Reddy, former vice-chancellor of VTU.

However, the decline in the demand for engineering seats may not last long. Some experts believe that this trend is simply part of the cyclic ups and downs of the industry, and in a few years time, the demand will rise back up. Others believe that engineering colleges must act swiftly to upgrade themselves or the decline will continue. "My advice to the government is that we have to look after students from class 10 onwards. If we improve our pass percentage from 10 and 10+2, the number of seats filled will be more," said Dr Reddy.

KAUSHIK JN



A committee constituted by AICTE observed that capacity utilisation during the 2017 to 2018 at undergraduate and postgraduate levels was 49.8 per cent

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CBSE releases preparation time table

The CBSE syllabus has already undergone a great change as per the term-wise pattern. According to the rationalised syllabus decided by the CBSE, the syllabus that was covered in term one won't be there for term two. Apart from the language subjects, Maths, Science, and Social Science are the core subjects that can drastically improve the overall board score for the students. CBSE has uploaded three notices on their official website discussing the term-wise syllabus.
In addition to the syllabus, the preparation timetable has been discussed. This table comprises the units that will come in term 2 exams. Besides that, it discusses the mark distribution for the internal assessments also.

Facebook to tie up with CBSE

Meta Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced on Wednesday that the company will expand its partnership with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to provide a curriculum on digital safety, online well-being and augmented reality (AR) for over 10 million students and one million teachers in India. In addition, with the government's vision of universalising education, Meta and CBSE will help democratise the high school curriculum by allowing students access to quality educational content online through modules which would be made available on CBSE's website.
-AGENCIES

Group Captain Varun Singh succumbs to injuries

Decorated air warrior Group Captain Varun Singh died at a military hospital in Bengaluru on Wednesday, a week after he was seriously injured in the chopper crash near Coonoor that killed CDS Gen Bipin Rawat, his wife and 11 armed forces personnel.

In August, Group Captain Singh was conferred with the Shaurya Chakra, India's third highest peacetime gallantry award for displaying exemplary composure and skill when his Tejas aircraft developed a technical snag during a sortie in October last year.

The 39-year-old Group Captain, who was known to be an excellent test pilot, is survived by an 11-year-old son, an eight-year-old daughter, and his wife. His father, Colonel (retd) KP Singh, had served in the Army Air Defence (AAD). He was admitted to a hospital in Wellington in Tamil Nadu with severe burn injuries on Wednesday following the Mi-17V5 helicopter crash. A day later, he was shifted to the Command Hospital in Bengaluru from Wellington.

He was on board the ill-fated chopper as the liaison officer for the visit of Gen Rawat, India's senior-most military officer, to the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington

He was on board the ill-fated chopper as the liaison officer for the visit of Gen Rawat, India's senior-most military officer, to the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington.

His Shaurya Chakra award citation said, "The pilot went beyond the call of duty and landed the aircraft taking calculated risks. This allowed an accurate analysis of fault on the indigenously designed fighter and further institution of preventive measures against recurrence."

His remains will be moved from Command Hospital on Thursday at 10 am to the Air Force Station in Yelahanka and then, via a service aircraft, to Bhopal. Wreaths will be laid at AFS yelahanka. The funeral will be held on December 17 in Bhopal, where his family lives.
-PTI

Smoke on the water

Garbage burning next to Sadaramangala lake is leaving the air around riddled with ash

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Residents of an apartment complex Prestige Shantiniketan, are having to wake up choking on thick smoke that has entered their houses early in morning due to garbage burning next to the Sadaramangala lake in Whitefield. The residents complain that trucks come in the night to unload and dump garbage here and later it is set ablaze in the early hours.

"Most of the days, we wake up feeling suffocated and coughing due to the smoke inside the house. Sometimes they burn the garbage in the evening and most of the time, we would be coughing due to the polluted air," said Subranil Gangabasi, a resident of Prestige Shantiniketan. He said that they had complained to the BBMP earlier too and were assured that it would not happen again, but it has begun again on Tuesday evening.

Plastic scrap was set afire in the early hours

He said, "We see trucks coming and dumping huge amounts of garbage next to the lake between 2 am and 4 am and they burn the garbage around 5 am. The smoke is toxic and it could affect the residents, especially children. The problem began six months ago and we have been asking BBMP to find a permanent solution to it."

Veerappa, health inspector of Hoodi ward, told Bangalore Mirror that earlier garbage was burnt here as the ward didn't have a dry waste segregation point. So the dry waste collectors had dumped and burnt it next to the lake. He said that the collectors and centre were given notices and warned. "The last fire incident was three months ago when we had given strict warning to the collectors not to repeat it. I visited the spot on Wednesday and found only scrap items that were discarded and it was not dry waste that was set on fire. On checking further with marshals, we found out that a few trucks carrying scrap items had come to the spot to dump so the marshals had stopped and fined them last week. The same trucks might have unloaded the scrap items late in the night and could have burned them while no one was around," he said. He said the place is cleared now and they are trying to trace the culprits. "We have also shared our contact numbers with the locals asking them to alert us if they find anyone dumping garbage here," he said.

"We will clear the garbage and make sure it doesn't become a dumpyard. Dumping and burning garbage is an offence
–Col Rajbir Singh, BBMP chief marshal

BBMP chief marshal Col Rajbir Singh said they would deploy additional marshals to keep a check on the spot during random nights. "We will clear the garbage and make sure it doesn't become a dumping yard. Dumping and burning garbage is an offence," he said.

BENGALURU

Card top-up terminals at Metro stns

Many Metro passengers have been expressing dissatisfaction about the delay in the process of online recharge credits to their travel cards. Now, BMRCL has acted on this demand by commissioning 'Card Top-up Terminals' (CTT) at all Metro stations for instant online recharge credits.

The commuters who have recharged their travel cards through online modes such as Namma Metro Mobile App, BMRC website, Phone-Pe and PayTM can present their travel cards at these terminals for the recharge amounts to be reflected on their travel cards instantly.

However, they are required to present their cards at the CTTs within 60 days. The steps to use 'Card Top-up Terminals' (CTT) are as follows; recharge the travel card with desired amount through online modes. Upon successful online recharge, presenting the travel card at the CTT can select the desired language and then click on the button "claim online top-up".

On confirming "yes", the recharged amount will be topped-up to the travel card and the balance in the card will be updated. The CTTs are installed near the customer care centres of all metro stations. —BMB

Get on board: BMTC cuts Vajra fares by 34%

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In a bid to increase ridership in Vajra services up to 35 lakh, Bangalore Metro Transport Corporation(BMTC) has decided to slash the prices with effect from December 17. The fare prices of the Vajra Day pass and Vajra monthly pass has also been cut.

BMTC announced on Wednesday the reduction of passenger bus fare, daily pass rates, and monthly pass of Vajra services to encourage more usage of public transport and to increase its ridership.

Passenger bus fares of Vajra Services have been reduced by 34 per cent. The change of fares remains unaffected under a distance of 6 km and reflects above only.

However, there is a 16.66 per cent decrease in the cost of the Vajra day pass bringing it from the existing Rs 120 to Rs 100 and a 25 per cent decrease in the monthly pass from the existing Rs 2,000 to the revised Rs 1,500.

The revised rates for the monthly pass will only come into effect from January 1, 2022.

From Jan 1, Vajra day passes will cost Rs 100 instead of Rs 120, monthly pass will cost you Rs 1,500 instead of Rs 2,000

"With the hope of normalcy, BMTC wants to offer affordable service for city dwellers. A lot of companies have opened their offices, work from home is slowly going away, and people are returning to the city. With the price slashing, we hope to increase the ridership in Vajra Services from the current 25 lakh to 35 lakh," said a BMTC official.

High-maintenance

"We have not been using the Volvo buses for a long time and the maintenance costs have been piling up. Even if we don't use the vehicles, they need to go through regular maintenance, racking up huge costs. The batteries have to be replaced and sometimes the sensors get damaged due to rats biting off the wires," he added. He further noted that the ordinary buses have been seeing higher ridership than the Vajra AC buses.

BMTC has also planned to introduce 90 new services on 12 new routes from December 17, making it a total of 173 Vajra services on 21 routes. Currently, BMTC operates 83 air-conditioned Vajra services on nine routes.

As of now, BMTC has no plans to bring down the prices of passenger bus fares of ordinary and Vayuvajra services.

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NICE but unsafe

Death of a 60-year-old places traffic cops on their toes; they allege road management team is not paying heed to issues

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It's been more than a month after a 60-year-old died after being hit by an unknown vehicle driver on NICE road. However, the jurisdictional Electronic City traffic police are unable to track the vehicle as the accident took place before the toll plaza where there are no CCTV cameras. The man was possibly hit by a vehicle that was exiting the toll plaza. Usually pedestrians are not allowed on NICE road, however, they somehow hoodwink the toll plaza staff or enter through private properties or by taking lifts from goods vehicles, the police said.

The accident happened on the intervening night of November 4 and 5, and victim Muniyappa, a resident of Huskur, was last seen by his employer Balakrishna who owns a farm house, off NICE road where Muniyappa worked. He had left the farm house and told Balakrishna that he was going to Huskur and he was found dead on the next day.

On November 5 morning, a security guard spotted Muniyappa lying in a pool of blood adjacent to some bushes. The cops collected CCTV footage from the toll gates, but nothing significant was found.

Even Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) East Division, KM Shantharaju along with his subordinate ACP Shivashankara Reddy and Electronic City police inspector Venkatesh HS inspected the spot. Traffic sleuths noticed that the entry and the exit points on the Hosur Road side of the NICE Road had no street lights, no CCTV cameras, no road markings, no pedestrian barriers, etc.

The E-City traffic police has until now written at least seven times to the NICE authorities to rectify both entry and exit roads on NICE Road. The cops had specifically written that the road management should install aluminum barriers so that pedestrians cannot come onto the road. "Many labourers and garment factory workers gather near the toll plaza during the morning and the evening hours, soughting lift from goods vehicles. The toll plaza staff also turn a blind eye towards this trend of people moving on NICE Road," a senior police officer said.

Traffic police have requested NICE Road management to take up preventive measures to avert mishaps

> **The accident took place outside the toll gate and there are roads leading to many villages. We cannot have control over them**
>
> –NICE operation manager

The traffic cops have also written to them for putting up road markings, installing blinkers, putting up cat eyes, and also building guard rails on both the left and right side of the road in both directions. "During the nights, especially when it rains, several accidents occur when drivers misjudge the edge of the road. The tyres enter the center divider, which has a drain and then the vehicle uncontrollably gets drifted into the drain.

Several vehicles have been damaged and there was a man who was killed in a similar accident in Kumaraswamy Traffic police jurisdiction's stretch of NICE Road. If there are road markings, blinkers or cat eyes, and guard rails, these accidents can be averted," the senior officer reiterated.

Another police officer said the NICE road management is only interested in collecting the toll amount, and do not care for road safety.

The cops have also written a separate letter instructing the toll plaza staff to strictly not allow any pedestrians to enter NICE Road for walking and also directed the NICE road patrol team to check if pedestrians are walking or even any vehicle are stopped midway. The cops have also requested not to allow bicycles including electric bikes, tractors or autorickshaws, and all these letters are presented to them through the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) but yet the NICE road authorities have not yet responded to any one of the letters even after more than a month's time, rued an officer.

Meanwhile, an operation manager of NICE told Bangalore Mirror, "We have informed the concerned police station and we will extend our cooperation for their investigation. All the letters that have come from the Bangalore Traffic Police department through the Joint Commissioner have been acknowledged. We have put up road markings, sign boards, according to the advice of the traffic police. The accident happened outside the toll gate and there are roads leading to many villages and we cannot have control over them," added the manager.

"Muniyappa worked at a house and a petty shop on the exit road after the toll gate. The owner of the house and petty shop have local political influence with which they did not allow the NICE authority to construct a compound there. However, to avoid pedestrian movement, we will set up drums filled with mud and tapes. The police have been updated on this," the manager added.

Roads start getting makeover

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Major stretches, including arterial and sub-arterial roads, in the city are getting asphalted. The BBMP has chosen most worn-out roads on priority basis and started the asphalting work recently. Accordingly, work is in progress on Hennur Main Road (1.8km), Baiyappanahalli Road (2.6km), a road near Lingarajapuram flyover (0.75km) and Dinnur Main Road among others.

BBMP officials and police conduct eviction drive in Sanjay Nagar

Hennur Main Road was lying unrepaired while drinking water pipeline and UGD line works were taken up by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and underground cabling work by Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom). The road was cut off in order to take up needed developmental works. Later, temporary arrangements were made for vehicular movement by applying wet mix on the road. The authorities had also filled the potholes. But, due to continuous rain in the month of October and November, it was unable to take up road repair works. Now, the same road, along with a footpath is being repaired and the uninterrupted vehicular movement will be ensured by January 15.

Eviction drive

Following complaints from residents, the BBMP along with the police began an eviction drive in Sanjay Nagar Main Road. During a police interaction meeting, many residents had complained that they were finding it tough to walk or drive on the Sanjay Nagar main road due to hawker menace.

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Where's the tar?
Banaswadi

The lane behind Banaswadi Sub Registrar office in Ward 27 was last tarred in 2008. The entire Chairman Layout is lying in a pathetic condition. It is filled with craters and potholes.

Rubble trouble
Armstrong Road

After multiple pleas and complaints, a pile of construction debris lying alongside Armstrong Road has not been removed yet. The residents and pedestrians have to face the brunt and they appeal to the authorities to fix the issue as soon as possible.

Crater B'luru
Shivajinagar

This is just another road in Shivajinagar, filled with craters and potholes. The rough surface makes it difficult for residents and commuters to use the stretches.

Remembering the heroes of 1971 War

Awardee - Cdr Joseph Pius Alfred Noronha, MVC (Retd).

During 1971 operations, Lt Cdr JPA Noronha was in command of INS Panvel which was subjected to enemy fire. During the operation, he led and inspired his men by showcasing untiring energy with utter disregard for his personal safety for which he was awarded the Mahavir Chakra.

Awardee - Rear Admiral Santosh Kumar Gupta, MVC, NM (Retd).

During 1971 operations, Lt Cdr SK Gupta was commanding a Naval Squadron part of 'INS VIKRANT'. Though his aircraft was critically damaged during the operation, the officer led his team to successfully complete the mission and return back safely for which he was awarded the Mahavir Chakra.

Awardee - Maj Gen Kuppanda Ponappa Nanjappa, AVSM, VrC (Retd).

During 1971 operations, Maj Kuppanda Ponappa Nanjappa, Commanding a company of the Kumaon Regiment was tasked to capture a well fortified enemy strong point in the Eastern Sector, which he executed successfully for which he was awarded the Vir Chakra.

Awardee - Brig Patinhare Veetil Sahadevan, AVSM, VrC, VSM (Retd).

During 1971 operations, Maj PV Sahadevan commanding a company of the Madras Regiment was tasked to establish a Bridge Head in the Western Sector involving an attack across a 800 yards deep enemy minefield. The officer captured the far bank after neutralizing the enemy bunker and encouraged his men to hold their ground & repulse enemy attacks throughout the action for which he was awarded the Vir Chakra.

Awardee - Rear Admiral Rishi Raj Sood, VrC, NM (Retd).

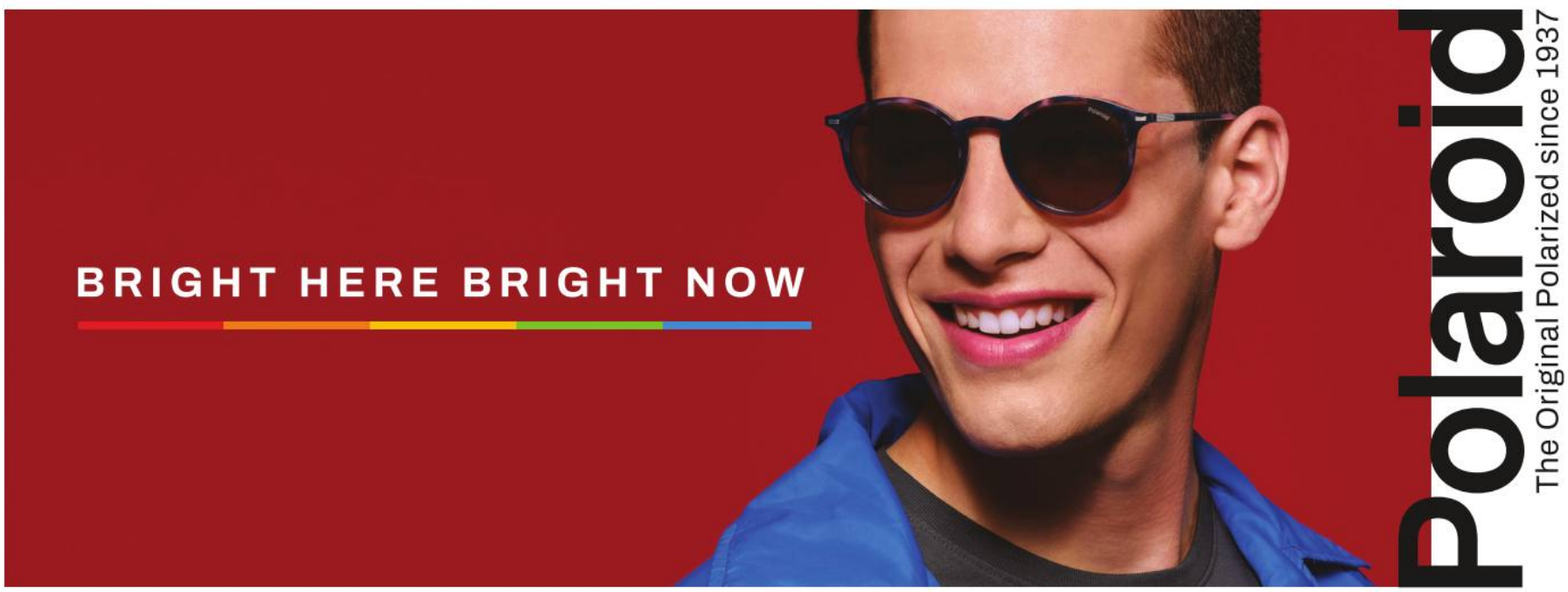
During 1971 operations, Commander Rishi Raj while Commanding INS Kirpan, rushed his ship into a counter attack on an enemy submarine engaged in an attack on INS Khukri, forcing the enemy to retreat for which he was awarded the Vir Chakra.

Awardee - Wing Cdr Aspari Raghunath, VrC (Retd).

During the 1971 operations, Flight Lieutenant Aspari Raghunath was serving with a Bomber Squadron and volunteered for every sortie and mission & also executed a special task successfully for which he was awarded the Vir Chakra.

Awardee - Cdr Keshar Singh Panwar, VrC (Retd).

During 1971 operations, Lt Keshar Singh Panwar, pilot of an Indian Naval Aircraft carried out repeated strikes on enemy held ports and sunk three enemy ships & harassed the enemy continuously for which he was awarded the Vir Chakra.



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Wasn't asked to reconsider quitting T20 captaincy: Kohli

#MUMBAI

India Test skipper Virat Kohli on Wednesday said the BCCI never asked him to reconsider quitting T20 leadership as claimed by the Board and his removal from ODI captaincy happened 90 minutes before the team's selection for the upcoming South Africa tour.

At the pre-departure press meet before the South Africa tour, the skipper took all the tough questions head on and said he would put his full support behind new white-ball skipper Rohit Sharma and head coach Rahul Dravid's "vision". He said he understands that not winning an ICC white ball trophy led to his removal.

"Whatever was said about the communication that happened about the decision that was made was inaccurate," Kohli said with obvious reference to BCCI president Sourav Ganguly's statement about the Board requesting him not to quit as split captaincy might not work in the white-ball format.

SPORT

"I was contacted one and half hours before selection meeting on 8th for Test series and there was no prior communication to me at all since I announced my decision on T20 captaincy. "...the chief selector discussed the Test team to which we both agreed. Before ending the call, I was told that the five selectors have decided that I will not be the ODI captain to which I replied 'okay fine'," he added.

Virat Kohli gets emotional during the press meet

"In the selection call afterwards we chatted about it briefly and that's what happened."

A reporter then asked But you had only stated that you wanted to remain captain till 2023 ODI World Cup? "When I left the T20 captaincy, I had first approached BCCI and intimated them of my decision and laid down my point of view in front of them (office bearers). "I gave the reasons why I wanted to quit T20 captaincy and my view point was received very nicely. There was no offence, no hesitation and not for once was I told that 'you should not leave T20 captaincy'," Kohli said, in complete contradiction to what Ganguly had stated a few days earlier. Kohli said the BCCI brass called his decision a progressive one. **–PTI**

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The political godfathers

After MLC polls, we take a look at families that hold clout in K'taka politics

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The HD Deve Gowda family is now widely represented both at the State and national levels

In North Karnataka, the Jarkiholi family has a hold with three brothers having served as Cabinet Ministers. Lakhan's victory has taken the BJP by surprise now

The recently concluded MLC polls have once again thrown light on family politics. After the results were announced, two political families emerged victorious thereby extending their say.

The HD Deve Gowda family is now widely represented both at the State and national levels. Suraj Revanna, son of Holenarasipura MLA HD Revanna, has now been elected as an MLC. His mother Bhavani Revanna is Hassan Zilla panchayat member. Suraj's younger brother Prajwal Revanna is an MP from Hassan. His grandfather HD Deve Gowda is a Rajya Sabha MP. His uncle and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy represents Channapatna constituency as an MLA while HDK's wife Anita represents the neighbouring Ramanagar constituency as MLA. Many other relatives are MLAs in several constituencies.

If this is the family story of south Karnataka, north Karnataka is not far behind. Lakhan Jarkiholi is the latest entrant from the Jarkiholi family to enter Vidhana Soudha as an MLC. Lakhan's elder brothers are already MLAs as Balachandra represents Arabhavi, Satish Yemakanmardi and Ramesh Gokak. While Ramesh and Balachandra are from BJP, Satish has been elected from Congress. Except Lakhan, all the three Jarkiholi brothers have served as Cabinet ministers in the past. In fact, the victory of Lakhan has taken the BJP by surprise. The saffron party had earlier planned to get its candidate Mahantesh Kavatagimath elected from Belagavi where it has the maximum MLAs from the district. The saffron party had planned that Lakhan's candidature would upset Congress in the second seat from the district. However, it was a googly for the saffron party as Lakhan and Congress won the election while two-time MLC from BJP Kavatagimath had to bite the dust. On the other hand, former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar who represents Hubballi-Dharwad Central has managed to get his younger brother Pradeep Shettar as an MLC. Jagadish's relative Mangal Suresh Angadi is an MP from Belagavi.

MLC elections

Meanwhile, the ruling BJP is now one seat short of gaining a simple majority in the Karnataka Legislative Council. The party bagged 11 of the 25 seats, from 20 Local Authorities' constituencies in the state, for which the biennial election was held on December 10, and counting was taken up today, poll officials said. The opposition Congress also managed to clinch 11 seats, while the JD(S) won two seats.

With these results, BJP's strength in the 75-member 'Upper House' has gone up from 32 to 37, while the Congress' tally declined from 29 to 26, and the JD(S)' numbers came down from 12 to 10.During the previous MLC polls from the Local Authorities' constituencies in 2015, the BJP had won six, Congress 14 and the JD(S) four seats respectively, while one seat had gone to an independent.

(With inputs from agencies)

Bengaluru-Chennai expressway work begins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

An officer said initially they had planned to reduce the distance further; however, it was not possible as the road was to pass through Eastern Ghats. The officials feared it may not get the required clearance from the Ministry of Environment, so the road shall now bypass the Eastern Ghats. The project is set to have a world-class highway with roads designed to cater to the speed of 120 km ph. The road embankment will be 3-6 m above the ground to avoid distractions.

Higher toll

The NHAI estimates that it may have to spend Rs 15-16 crore to build a km of the road. The toll on this road will be higher than the toll paid on the other NHAI roads. "As it is an access-controlled expressway, the toll will be higher though we have not finalised the rates yet," said the officer. Meanwhile, the NHAI is planning to have an alternative road from Bengaluru city centre to the expressway, from Hoskote: "Right now, the Bengaluru-Mulbagal road's toll gate is located near Hoskote. The

Bengaluru-Chennai expressway begins at this point. Users may not like to pay at two toll gates simultaneously. So, we are considering connecting the expressway to NH 207 (Hosur to Dobbspet). It is still in the initial days and needs to be finalised," added the official.

Alternatives

Incidentally, the new expressway will be the shortest distance between Bengaluru and Chennai. Currently, there are three routes connecting the two cities. The traffic volume between the two cities is high. More than 9,500 PCUs travel from Bengaluru to Chennai on the existing roads every hour. The most used road is via Hosur and Krishnagiri (golden quadrilateral) with approximately 380 km between the two cities. As this road is four-lane and passes through only two states, it is excessively used. However, with many towns en route and off Krishnagiri, the travel is time consuming. The second route is the Old Madras Road traversing between Kolar and Chittoor. Though this route is comparatively shorter than Hosur Road (approximately 340 km), it is not so much preferred for two reasons; one, it is a two-lane road and secondly, it passes through three states. (Private vehicles desist using this road as they must pay multiple entry taxes). The third route is a shorter route between Bangalore and Chennai passing through Kolar-KGF-V Kota and Vellore. This road is least preferred as it passes through the ghat section (between V Kota and Pernambut) and the road is not in good condition.

Long pending project

The Bangalore-Chennai expressway has been in the pipeline for a long time. The project was first announced by the then finance minister P Chidambaram in his Union budget speech in the 1990s. However, the project failed to materialise back then.

Why Bellandur has more covid infections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

landing here," BBMP chief health officer Dr Balasundar AS told Bangalore Mirror.

According to Balasundar, meanwhile, Padarayanapura has a high testing average as well as greater vaccination coverage.

"Residents of the ward don't travel to other cities or states and even work mostly in the surrounding areas of the ward. These factors have been protecting them from getting infected or spreading the infection. They have been cooperating with the BBMP for vaccination and testing whereas in Bellandur, we are facing a challenge as the residents don't allow our staff to even enter the buildings and don't cooperate with us," he said.

Testing intensified in Bellandur

BBMP health officer in Mahadevapura Dr Surendra said Bellandur ward has the highest population with 1.24 lakh people residing there and it is the second biggest ward in the city: "We have several big apartment blocks and more of a migrant/traveling population in the ward. The ward has relatively more construction workers and migrants who have traveled from different states and have come and settled here. People residing in the apartment blocks have been frequent travelers. We are seeing four to five cases per day which are slowly coming down now. We have intensified the testing of ILI and SARI cases in the ward, and have formed special teams that have been deployed next to the small

KAUSHIK JN

clinics to test those who are symptomatic with fever."

The health officer added that Mahadevapura and KR Puram have one of the highest vaccination rates in the city with 100 per cent receiving the first dose, 88 per cent the second dose and 87 per cent of the population fully vaccinated against covid-19.

As per the latest BBMP report, the top 10 wards reporting highest covid-19 cases are; Bellandur (daily average of seven cases), Begur and Doddanekkundi (five cases each), Horamavu, Hagadur and HSR layout (four cases each), Uttarahalli, Hemmigepura, Byatarayanapura and New Thippasandra (three cases each).

On the other hand, the following wards have been reporting zero covid-19 cases of late: Adugodi, Azad Nagar, KR Market, Chalavadipalya, Rayapura, JJ Nagar, Padarayanapura, Bapujinagar, Mudalapalya and Marenahalli.

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BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I had an infection on my penis and burnt my skin as I tried washing it with hand wash. A day later, the skin turned black and red. My dermatologist detected Candidal Belanitis and gave me Flucanazole 400mg, which has cured the infection, and Clotrimazole ointment which I been applying for the last few days. But there hasn't been any improvement in the skin burn. Please suggest some cure for the burn.
Revisit your doctor. Skin lesions take time to get back to normal.

2 I am a 28-year-old unmarried man. I was a virgin until last year. For the last few months, I have been unable to get a hard erection. Although I am aroused,
I am unable to sustain the erection and it's too soft for penetration. This has resulted in arguments with my girlfriend. I masturbate frequently and my penis has lost sensation in the head because of this. Could the penis' familiarity with hand masturbation be the cause of weak erections? Is there a cure for this? Should I reduce masturbation to regain strong healthy erections?
Masturbation, if done sensibly, does not cause any harm. It may help you if you lessen the number of times you masturbate. For two weeks take two capsules of Tentex Royal before dinner. That should help you.

3 I am 24 years old and addicted to masturbation. Each time I ejaculate, I feel guilty. How can I rid myself of this habit?
Why not get over your addiction by masturbating only when you are sexually excited? Why do you feel guilty? It's your body.

MEET THE SEXPERTS
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Raising champions of the future

When we consider certain basic attributes, we find that leadership is one of the most important skills that any parent wishes to instill in their child

Have you ever questioned if your child is self-sufficient? Will your child be able to look after himself if you leave them alone for a long time? Do you believe your child possesses the required life skills to face the challenges that lie ahead?

As parents, we always wish to inculcate in our children certain characteristics. When we consider certain basic attributes, we find that leadership is one of the most important skills that any parent wishes to instill in their child. However, as parents, we must recognise that independence and confidence are the pillars of leadership. So, let's look at some very fundamental new learning skills for kids that will allow them to confront the world on their own and with confidence.

Your child's education must go beyond what he or she learns in school. In order to learn, a child must be taught at home through experiences and training exercises.

Managing time

You're most likely perplexed as to how this is possible. You can accomplish this by encouraging your child to take charge of their own time. Instead of you waking them up, get them an alarm clock so they can get ready for school on time. Get them a planner to keep track of their schoolwork and extra-curricular activities, as well as when things need to be completed.

Ability to make decisions

Education, jobs, and life partners are just a few of the major decisions we must make in our lives. How about teaching your child how to make good decisions from a young age?

Here's how you do it: you teach kids how to make sensible judgments in short, straightforward steps. Begin by asking them to pick between two distinct activities or games, two different forms of clothing, two different foods, and so on.

When this occurs, the youngster will be able to comprehend the repercussions of each, helping them assess the benefits and drawbacks!

Money management and basic budgeting

Among life skills, this is a very basic one. Every week or every two weeks, give your children a set amount of pocket money to use for their costs. Ask them to save up their pocket money if they want to buy something more expensive. They will be more motivated as a result of this. Comparative purchasing, in my opinion, falls under the umbrella of budgeting education.

Open a bank account for your child and have them deposit money into it once a month (money received as gifts or if they help out in the house with some tasks, you could pay them a small amount). Saving and valuing money will be instilled as a result. " Isn't that the case?

The importance of environmental preservation

Instilling the value of environmental preservation and sustainability in your child at a young age will encourage them to be more caring for the environment. Make simple lifestyle changes at home to teach your child why environmental protection is important. Encourage children to be environmentally conscious in everything they do.
You can even compel them to participate in environmental activities such as gardening and rubbish collection for disposal. Give them a section of your yard to plant whatever they like, if you have one. Assist them in sowing seeds and assign them the job of watering the plants. You can always use planting pots if you don't have access to a yard.

Resilience and adaptability

These are two more key skills to inculcate in your child. This can be accomplished by ensuring that you do not constantly provide solutions to your child. Empower your child to solve problems on their own so that they are prepared to handle problems as they arise. They must develop resilience in order to adapt to a variety of circumstances and settings.

—IANS

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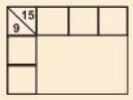
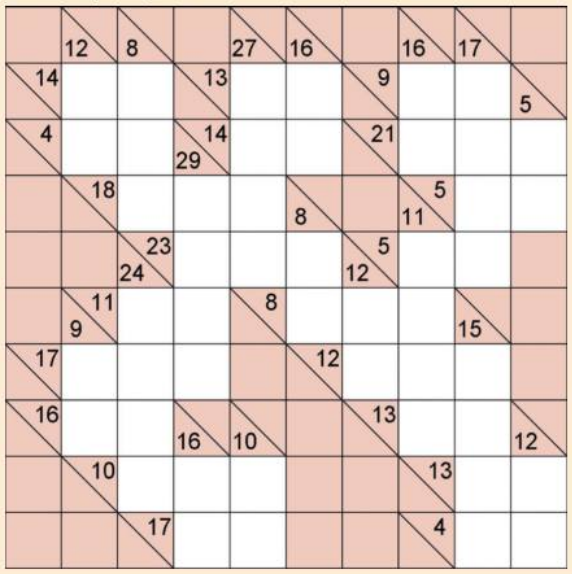
Kakuro

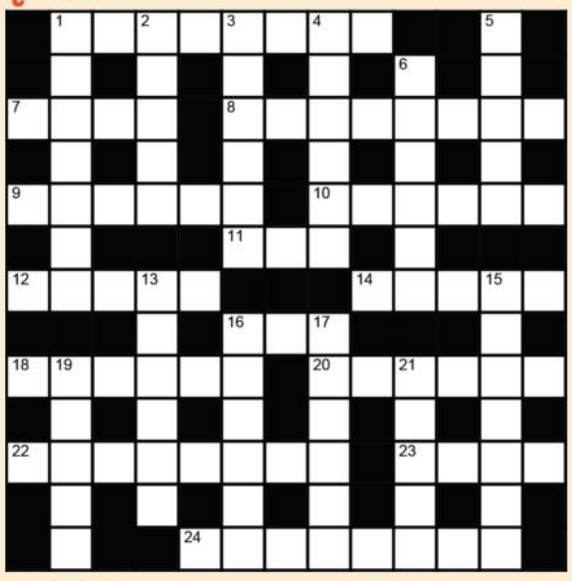
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Wave about or flourish (8)
7 Invitation request (4)
8 Harare locale (8)
9 Nuremberg native (6)
10 Most recent (6)
11 Grad. Rec. Exam. (3)
12 Made __ __ : employed? (3,2)
14 A deadly sin (5)
16 Canine sound (3)
18 Largesses, awards or medals (6)
20 Pastors' assistants (6)
22 Criterion (8)
23 Meeting point (4)
24 Hired, recruited or engaged (8)

DOWN

1 Hampers (7)
2 A steamed dosa (5)
3 Overwhelming or dazzling (6)
4 Bare or elementary (6)
5 Vessels, dishes or cups (5)
6 Capturer (6)
13 Seeping or draining out slowly (6)
15 Jeered or mocked (7)
16 Like bees in great numbers (6)
17 Of a fiefdom (6)
19 Revolving mechanism (5)
21 Fop (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS O

RG'K PJG GJJ XCGH GJ NHWHXJM PHB OF-RHPNKQRMK JF FHUJPPHUG BRGQ MHJMXH.

Linemaro

Oh, those are shoulder blades. I thought they were wings

Mindchow

If you can, help others; if you cannot do that, at least do not harm them

Joke of the day

Yield to temptation; it may not pass your way again

Loop

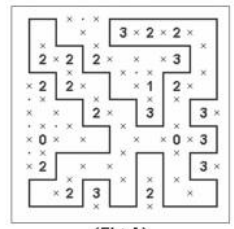
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

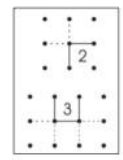
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

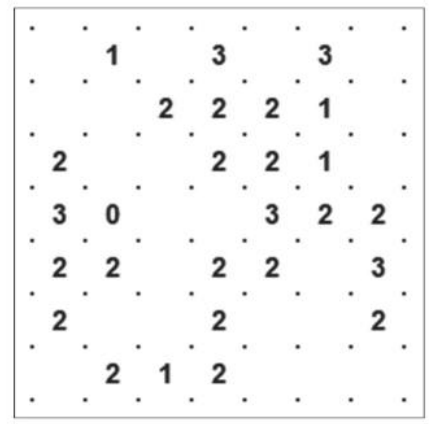
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



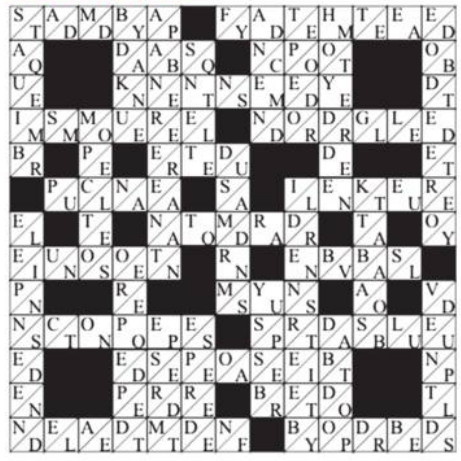
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



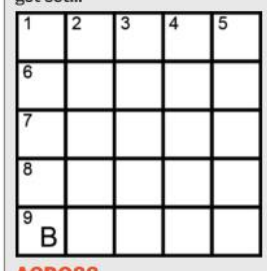
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

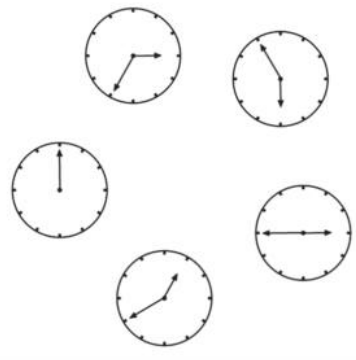
1 Hit RP; 6 Omaha; 7 Lunar; 8 Gamed; 9 Do Lob

DOWN

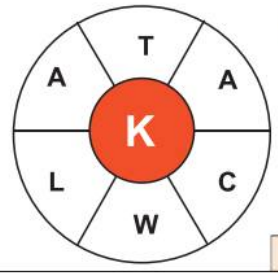
1 But HM; 2 Allah; 3 Donor; 4 Amigo; 5 Padre

Mensapuzzle

Where should the missing hour hand point?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		2	3		6	5		
4		8	1		7	2		9
				4				
	8	4				1	2	
1								5
	9	5				3	6	
				7				
2		9	6		1	8		4
		7	9		4	6		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 25

2 5 9 9

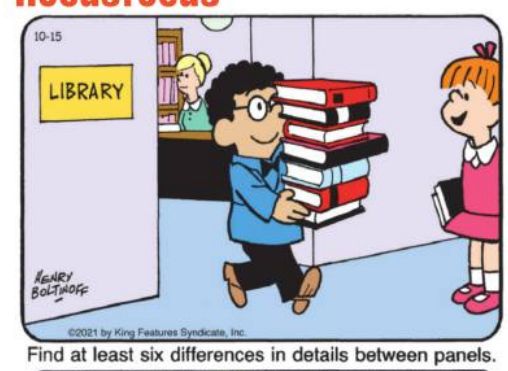
Medium = 34

4 5 5 5

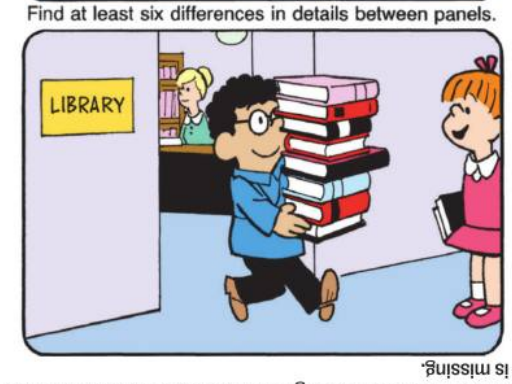
Hard = 22

4 7 9 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



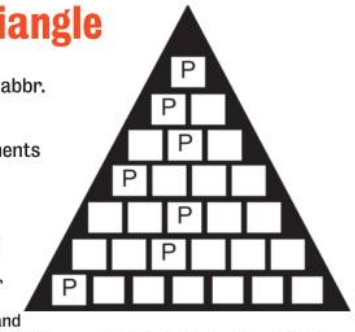
Differences: 1. Book is added. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Light is moved. 4. Sock is missing. 5. Bookcase is shorter. 6. Bow tie is missing.

Riddler

A fireman stood at the center of a ladder and was spraying water on a burning house. He climbed up 6 rungs before the heat of the flames forced him to come down 10 rungs. Some minutes later, he climbed 18 rungs to the very top of the ladder. How many rungs did the ladder have?

Alpha triangle

1 Parking sign
2 Public address, abbr.
3 Copy
4 Tempo
5 Sleeveless garments
6 Antics
7 Shows off



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

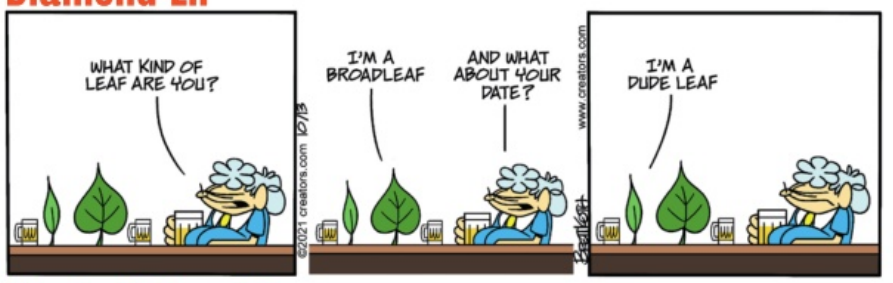
Redeye by Mel Casson

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF GOING TO COOKING SCHOOL, MAWSQUAW?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN TO COOKING SCHOOL!
10-2
YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU'D BEEN IN THE ARMY!

Bizarrotrip

You're breaking up with me just because I tried to eat your sidekick?
Wayno & Piraro 10-13-21
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2021 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

Crankshaft

IT'S TOO LATE TO HELP THE PAPER... BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT...
WHY DON'T WE TAKE THIS PENNY SOCK OVER TO THAT PIZZA PLACE IN WESTVIEW...
AND WE'LL GIVE THE OLD GIRL A PROPER SEND-OFF!
10-9
BATUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may give you peace of mind. Externally, you may face some work-related stress but your inner sense may be calm and cool, which may help you to balance everything. You may enjoy your daily work and domestic life. Some new sources of income may open, which may help you to boost your savings.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, situations are under control. You may be able to come out from the past's messy situation. You may work with patience, which may reflect on your way of working. You may plan for an outing. Students may have good focus towards their goals. Singles may find their lover with the help of friends or relatives.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may help needy people. It may increase your reputation in the society. You might implement the innovation in your work, which may expand your business. Positive results may make you happy. Love birds may plan for outing or some adventure tour.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel dull today and may face chronic health issues. You are likely to be a victim of sleeplessness, which might make you arrogant. Your arrogance may affect your domestic harmony. Your profits may convert into losses. You are advised to think twice before doing any type of financial transactions.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel unhappy. You may be impatient and become a victim of mood swings, which may reflect into your domestic harmony. You are advised to avoid arrogance at work, otherwise you may create hidden enemies around you. You are advised to avoid rush driving.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be dissatisfied and will be detached from responsibilities, which may make you confuse. You may plan hypothetically for your projects. You are advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. You'll be able to take care of your parents. It is advised to postpone migrate somewhere for some days. You should wait before acting on anything.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel energetic. Your losses may convert into profit, which may increase your business growth and liquidity. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to make some difficult decisions in the business. Your performance at work may be praised by your seniors. You may also expect to get incentives, which may increase the savings.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be happy and spread the happiness around you. Harmony shall prevail in personal life; you may enjoy some romantic moments with the spouse. Your family may support you to make some important decisions. You may also make some important decisions in the professional front. You may expect some new ventures or partnerships in the business.

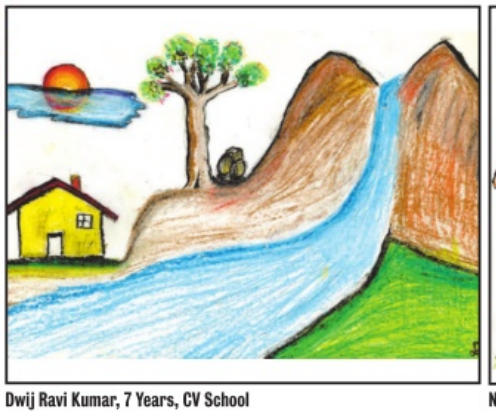
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be enthusiastic and more focused, which may speed up your postponed projects. Your siblings may help you to start a new project, which may give you profit in the near future. You may expect short trips related to your family issues. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of a new job.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be busy at work; your wisdom may help you to make a right decision, which may increase your business. You are likely to get a big order, which may expand your work. You may utilise your creativity to renovate your home or office, which may improve your social status. You may invest in some creative asset also.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, the positive moon may make you happy. You may use your pa- tience at work. Your performance may be good in the job; you may get some incentives in terms of rewards. Health-related issues of family members will be resolved now. Job aspirants are likely to secure a good job. Love birds may enjoy some quality time together.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your financial health. You may become more creative today. You may use your creativity to decorate your office or home, which may enhance your social status. Love birds may get some support from their family members to maintain their relationship status. Students may hear good news in terms of academics.

KIDZONE



Dwij Ravi Kumar, 7 Years, CV School

N Y Ravikumar, 11 Years, Malleswaram Shishu Vihar School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER 29 He is standing on the middle rung. He goes up 6 rungs so he is now at M+6 and when he goes down 10 rungs so he is at M-4. He goes up 18 rungs so he is now at M+14 = T 14 rungs from the top, 14 rungs from the bottom, and the middle rung. 14+14+1=29

BULL'S EYE attack, walk, CATWALK, lack, tack, talk,

QUOTE UNCODE It's not too late to develop new friendships or reconnect with people.

B	L	O	O	D				
M	A	D	G	E				
U	L	N	A	R				
H	A	O	M	A				
T	H	R	I	P				

FAST FIVE

SOLVE IN 1M 39×2=78, 78+1=79

STRIKE OUT

S	A	M	B	A		F	A	T	H	E	A	D		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE To the 4 Start with the top left clockface, and move in a clockwise direction. The value pointed to by the hour hand equals the value pointed to by minute hand, subtracting 4 for the first clockface, 5 for the next, then 6 etc.

SUDOKU

8	1	7	9	2	4	6	5	3
2	5	9	6	3	1	8	7	4
3	4	6	8	7	5	9	1	2
7	9	5	4	1	2	3	6	8
1	2	3	7	6	8	4	9	5
6	8	4	5	9	3	1	2	7
5	3	1	2	4	9	7	8	6
4	6	8	1	5	7	2	3	9
9	7	2	3	8	6	5	4	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
Easy
9 + 2 + 9 + 5 = 25
Medium
5 × 5 + 4 + 5 = 34
Hard
7 – 5 × 9 + 4 = 22

GO FIGURE
p, pA, Ape, Pace, Capes, Caper, Prances.

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Ben Affleck opens up on drinking problem
Hollywood star Ben Affleck says he struggled with drinking during his marriage to Jennifer Garner. Affleck who is back with Jennifer Lopez now, said he'd started to feel trapped in the marriage with Garner

BangaloreMirror | 12
Thursday, December 16, 2021
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

INTERVIEW | AYUSHMANN KHURRANA, ACTOR

Story, love, money. In that order

Ayushmann Khurrana tells us what makes him do the films he does

Ayushmann Khurrana is a man on a mission to break down stereotypes and he won't let box office numbers stop him. The star, who released his film 'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui' last Friday, got candid with ETimes about taking risks with his films and starting a discussion among his audience. Excerpts

You have been praised for your transformation and your performance in this film by several of your film industry friends. Whose message had you fanboying all over again?
A couple of them in fact. One of them was Hrithik Roshan's tweet because he is from the industry and his validation was very important and encouraging. I've always been a fan and I started my career with him. I was hosting a dance show and he was the judge. He has witnessed my journey. Praises coming from him really meant the world to me.
Secondly, the validation I received from Ghazal Dhaliwal was very important because she belongs to the trans community. She is also from the industry and she loved the film. I think that validation was required.

'Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui' has been receiving so much love, especially from the trans community for the way you handled this film and the empathy you have shown, what was this journey like?
It was very tough! I think this is the most risky film of my life. Right from the inception to the shooting to the trailer launch. The trailer, because we didn't really reveal much, not even about the subject. Of course, there were certain slurs in the trailer. We got certain negative feedback from the (trans) community, but we asked them, 'watch the film first, then react'.
Being an ally of the LGBTQIA+ community, it is very heartwarming to get that kind of validation. Because this film is a conversation starter and I am glad that we were able to trigger empathy from the common viewer who was not even aware of the lives of trans people. I guess this was a great baby step towards the induction of the subject.

Does Ayushmann Khurrana do movies for love, money or story?
I guess story and love and I guess money follows that. If you get love from people, it is just a byproduct of love and story - I'm talking about money. You should concentrate on the story and love. **—Karen Pereira**

Relief for Aryan Khan

Bombay High Court has granted relief to Aryan Khan and he no longer needs to appear before the Narcotics Control Bureau office in Mumbai every Friday. This condition was imposed on Shah Rukh Khan's son by the HC when he was granted bail in the cruise drugs case. A single bench of Justice N W Sambre stated that the condition has been modified.

"The applicant (Aryan) shall attend the office of NCB Delhi as and when directed by the agency, provided the NCB issues a 72-hour notice to the applicant," Justice Sambre said. The court also said he need not submit his itinerary if he is travelling to Delhi for recording his statement.

When PC got the Matrix call

At the 100th episode of Red Table Talk, Global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas on Wednesday opened about how she got her steps into the Matrix universe. As per People magazine, she opened about how she got excited after getting "the call" from iconic director Lana Wachowski. "When I got the call from my agent, I remember I was in India filming something, and they were like, 'Oh, [director] Lana [Wachowski] wants to meet you tomorrow in San Francisco. I drove to the airport. I was like, 'Sure!' Whatever it takes to get the opportunity to work with all of you lot, it's such a privilege and an honour," she said.

The Martial Artist

Actor Disha Patani, who was last seen in 'Radhe: The Most Wanted Bhai', has spoken about the importance of martial arts on the occasion of Martial Arts Training Day.

Speaking about what martial arts mean to her, Disha shared, "For me personally, Martial Arts has been a true saviour, when it comes to maintaining physical and mental wellness. It is a great form of exercise as it has a number of health benefits. From physical fitness to mental and physical enhancement, martial arts paves way for people to reach their peak potential. In my journey of self actualization, martial arts and kickboxing have played a crucial part, and I urge everyone to practice the arts."

Meanwhile, Disha is currently busy shooting for 'Ek Villain Returns'. In the film, she will be seen doing her own action scenes. A source earlier revealed, "Disha Patani plays an extremely bold and fearless character in Ek Villian Returns where she even takes on a few challenging action sequences. Disha is pushing the envelope in terms of her performance and action stunts.

How Malaika got back to normal life

Bollywood diva Malaika Arora is among the first celebs who battled covid last year and made a quick recovery. Despite being a health freak, she feels it was an arduous task to resume work right after recuperating from the covid-19.

Amid the new variant Omicron scare, Malaika told Hindustantimes.com that initially, she felt helpless to find out her body was unable to respond to working out like how it used to before covid.

Recalling her first workout session post covid, she called it physically devastating, however, she kept pushing herself regardless of everything.

"With a lot of determination, grit and hope I finally felt like myself after nearly 32 weeks from testing negative" she said. Urging people facing similar problems post recovery to hang in there, she asserted, "I can understand the overwhelming feeling of going back to normal life due to fear of the virus. I was fortunate enough to get through it with no complications and minimal suffering" and thanked her friends, family and doctors for the support.

Malaika also added that she preferred going out for short runs in order to see how her body would respond as she slowly incorporated yoga and other exercises which helped her for a speedy recovery.

Recently, Malaika's sister Amrita Arora contracted the virus over a dinner party hosted by Karan Johar. Apart from her, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Maheep Kapoor and Seema Khan also tested positive.